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**Your Reference:** P352991GB  
**Application No:** GB0518067.4

**The Patent Office**  
**Patents Directorate**

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30 November 2005

Dear Sirs

**Patents Act 1977:  
Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 and 18(3)**

**Latest date for reply:** 15 September 2006

I enclose two copies of my search and examination report and a copy of the citations.

By the above date you should either file amendments to meet the objections in the report or make observations on them. If you do not, the application may be refused.

**Other search results**

If you have applied to another patent office for a patent for this invention you will be receiving from them the results of their search. If you decide to proceed with the present application you are asked to provide me with a copy of any such official search report; or to email identifying details of the cited documents (including any category assigned in the report) to the email address above.

**Cut-off date** This request applies to search reports that you have received before the date when you send a response to our first examination report under section 18(3) or section 18(4); if you make no response to an initial section 18(4) report the cut-off date is two months after the date of that report. Tell us about a search report sooner rather than later if that would allow it to be considered during our first examination.

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**<sup>†</sup>Use of E-mail:** Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



*Exceptions* You do not have to supply details of a search report that (1) shows a nil response, or (2) has been published by WIPO or EPO, or (3) you have already supplied to us on a previous GB application.

### Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all the formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **7 February 2006**. At this time you will receive a letter confirming the exact date when the preparations for publication will be completed. This letter will also tell you the publication number and date of publication of your application.

### Withdrawal/amendment

If you wish to withdraw your application before it is published you must do so before the preparations for publication are complete. **WARNING** – after preparations for publication are complete it will NOT be possible to withdraw your application from publication.

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before 7 February 2006 please mark your letter prominently:

**"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT".**

Yours faithfully

Peter Gardiner  
Examiner

### Important information about combined search and examination

I also ask that you take note of the following points. These might have a bearing on the future stages of your application because the examination report has been sent to you before your application has been published.

- (a) You may file voluntary amendments before making a full response to my examination report. We will publish with your application any new or amended claims you file voluntarily or as a full response, provided that they are received before preparations for publication are completed. It would help us when you file amendments before publication if you could prominently indicate in a covering letter whether or not the amendments are intended as a full response to the examination report.



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- (b) If you file a full response to the examination report before your application is published I will consider it as soon as possible. However, if this would disrupt the publication of your application, I would have to delay taking any action until the application had been published. This delay could be up to 3 months, depending upon when we receive your response.
- (c) There is another situation when there might be a delay between you filing a full response and the Patent Office responding to it. This would arise if you met all my objections but your application had not or had only recently been published. I could not report the outcome of my re-examination until I was satisfied that the search was complete for documents published before the priority date of your invention and that anybody interested in the application has had three months following publication of the application to make observations on the patentability of your invention.
- (d) Provided that the requirements of the Act have been met, I can send your application to grant as early as three months after publication. Before doing so I will bring the original search up to date and raise with you any further objection that might result from this top-up search. However, there is a possibility that at that time I may not have access to all the patent applications published after the priority date of your invention and of possible relevance to your application. If this is the case I would have to complete the search after grant and if necessary raise any new found novelty objection then.



Application No: GB0518067.4

Examiner: Peter Gardiner

Claims searched: 1 to 7 and 10

Date of search: 29 November 2005

## Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17

### Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
A	-	US 2001/0052715 A1 (McANDREW) See the whole document.
A	-	DE 10335868 A1 (VW) See the abstract and figures.
A	-	FR 2838669 A1 (DEMO TABLEAUX) See the moulding method referred to in the abstract.
A	-	JP 11162633 A (NISSHA) See the moulding method referred to in the abstract.

### Categories:

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
& Member of the same patent family	E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

### Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC<sup>X</sup> :

B5A; B7B; B7J; F4R

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC<sup>07</sup>

B29C; B29D; B60Q; B60R; F21S; F21V; F21W

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report

EPODOC, WPI



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**Patents Act 1977**  
**Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 & 18(3)**

**Plurality of invention**

1. Your claims define two separate inventions not forming a single inventive concept.  
The inventions are:

- (i) An automotive interior component comprising a door trim panel including a switch panel, a flip cover, at least one electrical switch and an electroluminescent lamp mounted to the flip cover.  
Claims: 1 to 7, and 10.
- (ii) A method of making an automotive interior component in a mould where the mould resembles a flip cover for a flip pack and an electroluminescent lamp is moulded with the component.  
Claims: 8, 9 and 11.

The common subject of claims 1 and 8 would appear to be little more than an automotive interior component comprising a "flip cover" mounted to an electroluminescent lamp. As the flip cover of claim 8 is not defined any further it is thought that any automotive interior component having an electroluminescent lamp mounted to it would anticipate the common subject matter. It should also be noted that moulding electroluminescent lamps into vehicle trim members in general is known.

You will need to amend your claims, so that they relate to only one invention or inventive concept. You will also need to make consequential amendments to the description.

**Clarity**

2. Claim 7 should begin "The automotive interior component of any preceding *claim* wherein..." .